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SOVIET ZONE PLANTS DEVELOP NEW MACHINERY;
WORKERS MAKE MACHINE TOOLS FROM SCRAP

PRODUCES NEW BRIQUETTING MACHINE -- Der Volksbetrieb, No 3, 1 Feb 50

The ZEMAG Iron Foundry and Machine-Building Plant in Zeitz has developed a new briquetting machine which will result in considerable conservation of material and power in the manufacture of briquettes.

Since 1868, crank-operated extrusion presses have generally been used in Germany for briquetting brown coal. In recent years the so-called toggle joint press has been used in an attempt to improve the quality of the briquettes. However, as a result of mold friction these presses have a very high consumption of power. The pressing speed of the crank extruder is approximately 0.7-0.8 meters per second and that of the toggle joint presses 0.3-0.5 meters per second.

At the same pressures, the tons-per-hour weight of briquettes produced by the new press, while somewhat less than that turned out by crank and toggle joint presses, requires 55-60 percent less electric power. The rate of speed at which the briquettes are extruded is only about 0.0265 meters per second, (1/11 - 1/30 the speed of the old presses) which improves the quality of the product. Moreover, since a considerable amount of friction in the mold is eliminated, there is a saving of at least 90 percent in the material of which the molds are made.

OUTPUT INCREASED 400 PERCENT -- Der Volksbetrieb, No 1, Jan 50

Nuts and bolts are items particularly in short supply in the metal industry. The Wismar Ship Repair Yard has developed a new process for the production of nuts which has enabled it to increase its output about 400 percent.

Formerly the hole had to be bored in each nut individually. With the new process the blanks are simply fed into a machine which bores the holes continuously and automatically. The threads are cut on another machine which has likewise been made completely automatic. In addition to the increase in output, the new process has the advantage that the nuts can be made from waste pieces of sheet or strip iron which previously could not be put to any use.

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BOILER SCALE REMOVED MECHANICALLY -- Der Volksbetrieb, No 1, Jan 50

A new mechanized process being used at Meurostolln mine permits the removal of boiler scale from a pipe 3,000 millimeters long and 46 millimeters in outside diameter in 3 minutes, or in some cases in as little as one minute. The saving in time is considerable, because chipping the scale off by hand requires about half an hour per pipe.

BABELSBURG PLANT REPAIRS ELECTRIC MOTORS -- Wirtschaft im Aufbau, No 23, 1 Dec 49

In June, the Babelsburg plant which repairs motors, generators, and welding transformers, was changed over to public ownership and became a part of the Klein Machnow Federation of People-Owned Plants. It employs 56 persons, 29 of them skilled workers. Thirteen of the positions are filled by apprentices, both male and female.

The plant does work for people-owned plants and for cooperative economic enterprises. It has two-armature-winding shops, a casting shop, forging and welding shops, and a well-equipped turning section. The special tools and machines have been built by the workers themselves from damaged machinery and spare parts.

PRODUCES TRUCKS AND MOTORS -- Nachrichten fuer AuBenhandel, No 12, 11 Feb 50

In January, the people-owned Phaenomen Plant in Zittau completed the first mass-produced vehicles manufactured since the war. They consisted of six ambulances and five high-speed trucks, Model "Granit 27." Production of 250 of these new trucks is scheduled in the third quarter of 1950. The plant will also produce 100 engines per month.

A fund of 150,000 Deutsche marks has been made available to the motor vehicle plant in Ludwigsfelde for further improvement of its two-stroke Diesel engine for tractors.

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